

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-18V

UNPUBLISHED

MARIE T. HAUFLE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: September 28, 2020

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Howard Scott Gold, Gold Law Firm, LLC, Wellesley Hills, MA, for petitioner.*

*Emilie Williams, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On January 3, 2019, Marie T. Haufle filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she was administered the influenza (flu) vaccine on October 2, 2017, and thereafter suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), which was caused-in-fact by the flu vaccination. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 15, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On September 24, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$122,000.00. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award.

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

*Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$122,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

---

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

MARIE T. HAUFLE

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

**No. 19-0018**  
Chief Special Master Corcoran  
ECF

**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On January 3, 2019, Marie T. Haufle (petitioner) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended (“the Vaccine Act” or “the Act”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34. Petitioner alleged that she suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to her on October 2, 2017. Petition at 1. On June 15, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a GBS Table injury, and the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation the same day. ECF No. 29; ECF No. 30.

**I. Items of Compensation**

**A. Pain and Suffering**

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$122,000.00 in actual pain and suffering. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following<sup>1</sup>: a lump sum payment of \$122,000.00, representing compensation for actual pain and suffering, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Marie T. Haufle.

**III. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment**

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Marie T. Haufle:	<b>\$ 122,000.00</b>
--	----------------------

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY BOSSERT CLARK  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ Emilie F. Williams  
EMILIE F. WILLIAMS  
Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146

---

<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
Tel: (202) 305-0124  
Emilie.williams@usdoj.gov

DATED: September 24, 2020